

Serial No.: 09/921,589
Filing Date: August 3, 2001

Examiner: C. Hamilton
Art Unit: 1752

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 and 18-20 are pending.

Claim 10 has been amended.

Claim 21 has been cancelled.

In an Advisory Action dated December 31, 2003 the Examiner states:

"Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims."

Claim 21 depended directly from independent claim 10. The applicant has now amended claim 10 to include the elements of claim 21, thereby rewriting claim 21 in independent format. As a result, the applicant believes that it has complied with the Examiner's suggestion in this regard and that the pending claims are now allowable. The claims have been marked as they are currently amended.

The Examiner also maintained an obviousness double patenting rejection over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent 6,605,410. The applicant believes that this rejection is incorrect and that the pending claims are not obvious in view of U.S. 6,605,410. However, in order to expedite the processing of this application, the applicant has enclosed a terminal disclaimer. This addresses the Examiner's rejection. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0447 in the amount of \$110.00 plus any deficiencies. However, in submitting the terminal disclaimer, the applicant does not admit that, and expressly disagrees that, the pending claims are obvious in view of U.S. 6,605,410.

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CONCLUSION

The amendments and the terminal disclaimer specifically address the issues raised in the Advisory Action. In the Advisory Action, the allowability of claim 21 (now rewritten as claim 10) was noted. No further search or substantial work is required. This application is now in a condition for immediate allowance and such action is earnestly sought.

Respectfully Submitted,


John L. Cordani, Reg. No. 37,297
Garmody & Torrance, LLP
50 Leavenworth Street
Waterbury, CT. 06721-1110
(203) 578-4271

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